

Merri Lewis
Gorham

Hello, I would like to say that this bill would create a lot of danger for my son with autism and behavior issues that are dangerous to others. He requires a restraint when his behaviors are severe and dangerous in order to protect the other students and the staff working with him, he is in a special purpose school who is amazing at figuring him out and writing good plans to avoid the need for restraints but inevitably, they will stop working, behaviors increase and then a new plan is needed. But before that can be accomplished successfully there is a need for restraint to keep him from throwing chairs or computers at other kids, pulling hair, kicking and biting, disrobing and urinating and defecating in front of others, or in public. It protects him as well as those around him. Without this, he would be guaranteed to injure others or himself, and would require police intervention and chemical restraints/ sedatives, or worse, a taser. All these would be far more damaging for our son than a restraint done safely as his school has done. And all of this would be done after damage to people has occurred. It just isn't safe for a blanket rule that restraints can't be used. Thank you.